

While this case has dragged on in the courts, the brave little boy at the center of this tragedy has learned to walk and ride a bike. But his medical needs are still not being met. This debate is about helping hard-working families like this one get the best health care possible for their families. Nothing more, nothing less. To obtain this we need to support the Patients' Bill of Rights and oppose the unenforceable Republican plan.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Madam Speaker, it is much easier to be a liberal than to be a conservative. Just consider for a moment what has been said by our colleagues on the other side during the debate on managed care over the past 2 weeks. The pattern here, you can see on almost every public policy issue. First, declare a crisis. Really? Although we know there are problems with legitimate managed care, the polls show 90 percent of the people with this care are satisfied. Second, propose a solution that will make the problem worse, thus giving the Democrats more opportunity to declare a crisis. The solution for the other side is always the same, more mandates, more lawyers, and, let us not forget, more government. This will raise the price, making health care less affordable than it was before. The final step is to deny that their proposal will do anything of the sort. Then in a few years when the problem is even worse, they will declare their outrage again, just as they are doing now.

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MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, last week a very good friend of mine went to the hospital to have a malignant tumor removed from his bladder. It was extensive surgery. It was outpatient surgery. He was sent home 5 hours after the surgery with a catheter and a bag at his waist line. This is outrageous. Later in the week, he did get a fever from an infection.

We cannot let this happen to the people in our country. We must have real patient reform. We have to protect the patients in our health care system. Do not vote today for a faux reform, or tomorrow, faux Republican reform. We need the Dingell-Ganske bill. We need to let doctors and patients decide when to send a cancer patient home from the hospital after extensive surgery.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN

(Mr. RYUN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN. Madam Speaker, no civilized society should condone or even tolerate a heinous procedure such as partial birth abortion. Congress will again pass a ban on partial birth abortion and this time the President should sign the ban.

By his past veto, the President has demonstrated that he is out of step with 85 percent of the American people who support an end to this heinous procedure. With this in mind, I want to tell you about a miracle baby girl named Sarah.

Sarah appeared last year on CBS's "Mysteries and Miracles." When she was only four inches long, Sarah was taken briefly from her mother's womb to remove a growing tumor.

Sarah's heart stopped beating during the surgery, and the surgeon performed CPR for 20 minutes to revive her. In July of 1996, Sarah was delivered by C-section and is now a healthy toddler.

Unfortunately, even as lives like Sarah's are being saved by scientific breakthroughs, others are being extinguished through abortion. The care Sarah received from her surgeons provides a stark contrast to the treatment her mother might legally have chosen: a partial birth abortion.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, everyone is talking about patients' rights. It is simple to talk about wanting patients to have rights and access to care. It is another thing, however, to provide for that in legislation.

There are two contending bills. Let me go through them. Access to enforcement in State courts: The Democratic bill, yes; the Republican bill, no. Protection for women after mastectomy: Democratic bill, yes; Republican bill, no. Choice of doctors within the plan: Democratic bill, yes; Republican bill, no. Access to specialty care: Democratic bill, yes; Republican bill, no. Direct access to OB/GYNs: Democratic bill, yes; Republican bill, no.

There are other provisions that I will not be able to cover in this 1 minute. But as we hear this debate and people talk about patients' rights, hold them to the criteria of not just talking about patients' rights, but ensuring patients' rights.

VETO OF EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT BILL

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, once again, the counterfeit logic of the Democrats and this President have put the children of America at risk.

I am not talking about the sale of classified military technology to China. I am talking about the President's veto of the Education Savings Account bill. Put aside for the moment that this bill would have allowed parents to save for the future education of their children. The bill he just vetoed would have given schools greater leeway to expel and discipline students who bring guns or other weapons to school.

The bill he vetoed would have permitted school officials to implement safety measures to protect innocent children. How many times have we all heard the President state that safety at schools was one of his top priorities?

Madam Speaker, we can no longer sit idly by while the violence in schools continues to rise. Congress must override his veto and pass legislation that will enable our schools to develop local policies that end school violence.

Parents, teachers, and especially students all across America should not have to wait one more hour, one more day, or one more week for safer schools. Our children should be working on their education, not worrying about their safety.

I urge the President to reconsider and retract his veto and start protecting our children.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, make no mistake, the differences between the Democrats' Patients' Bill of Rights and the Republican HMO proposal are major. The Republican bill excludes key provisions that are essential for consumer protection and includes provisions that would reduce current consumer protections.

The Republican HMO plan seeks to give the appearance of reform without the reality. Among other gaps, the Republican plan still leaves medical decisions in the hands of insurance company accountants instead of doctors. It does not limit HMOs' and insurance companies' use of improper financial incentives to limit needed care. It allows drive-through mastectomies and fails to contain a requirement for coverage for reconstructive surgery after mastectomy. It does not give access to specialty care where needed.

The Republican bill does not guarantee patients access to needed drugs or clinical trials. And most important, the Republican bill provides no effective mechanism to hold plans accountable when plan abuse kills or injures someone.

Democrats will insist on a bill that contains guarantees that are a significant gain for health care consumers. The Republican plan is basically a sham.

CENSUS DEBATE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, should we count or should we take a poll? The census debate boils down to that difficult question.

The Democrats say, why should the Constitution stand in the way of rigging the numbers the way we want? After all, the Democrats are either unaware of Article I, section 2 of the Constitution that states in clear language that Congress shall direct that a census be conducted using an actual enumeration, or they simply wish to ignore it.

Either way, it is troubling that one party is willing to go so far to trample on the Constitution just for political purposes.

Most Americans do not have a Ph.D. in English or in American constitutional history. But most Americans do believe that sampling, guessing, or taking a poll does not qualify as actual enumeration, also believe the Constitution actually means what it says.

They are pretty tired of liberal Democrats inventing out of whole cloth things that are in the Constitution, no matter how many liberal experts in Washington tell us otherwise.

HMO REFORM

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, Americans are frustrated with their managed care plans. It is no wonder; HMO horror stories abound. Every day we hear stories of people being denied care, doctors being forbidden from discussing treatment options, and patients unable to get justice when things go wrong.

Americans want a few simple things from their HMOs. In an emergency, they want care without having to worry about whether all necessary treatments will be covered. They want the right to visit the specialist who can address their health problems and the right to get prescription drugs they need.

They want accountability from HMOs and insurance companies when they are injured by abusive practices. They want absolute privacy in their medical records and protection from discrimination on the basis of their genetic information.

Unfortunately, we have not been given the opportunity to have any hearings or a markup on these issues, and, therefore, I encourage my colleagues to carefully consider the great need for legislation that will guarantee patient protection and put the emphasis on managing care rather than managing costs. I urge us to settle for nothing less.

We have a historic opportunity to end these horror stories. Let us not waste this opportunity on half-baked attempts at reform. Let us take this

chance to guarantee the protections that Americans want and need in their health care plans.

VETO OF EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT BILL WAS WRONG

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Madam Speaker, the President's late night, quiet veto this week of Education Savings Accounts—timed in order to miss the evening news—means that those that produced generations of education failure have dodged the bullet again.

The other side should explain to America why encouraging parents to save for their children's education is a bad thing. Oh, they are long on heartwarming rhetoric about their care and compassion for "the children" and for "education;" but when it comes to education reform legislation that threatens the special interests that gave us these failing schools in the first place, they are woefully short on action.

They send their own kids to private schools, but then they tell working parents who want to save for their children's education "no."

Madam Speaker, Republicans in Congress are not content to simply talk about "the children," we will fight for children, and for the world-class education they deserve. We will continue the fight for working parents who want to be able to save for their children's education through Education Saving Accounts.

VIGILANCE OF BROWN TREE SNAKE NEEDED IN HAWAII

(Mr. ABERCROMBIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to express my support for provisions in the Interior Appropriations bill we are debating today for the funding of the Brown Tree Snake control efforts.

The consequences of the Brown Tree Snake becoming established on any of the Hawaiian Islands would be devastating. We have only to look at Guam to understand the potential extinction of many species will, not might, result from the introduction of the snake to Hawaii.

Guam now experiences an instance of more than 12,000 of these snakes per square mile. Entire species have disappeared from Guam since World War II when the snake was accidentally brought to the island, most probably aboard military aircraft which had visited areas of the South Pacific in the snake's natural habitat.

The Interior Appropriation bill contains \$2.1 million for prevention, education, and inspection programs, an increase of \$500,000 over last year. We need to step up our vigilance in Hawaii

against this invasive species which has brought wildlife ruin elsewhere.

The scientific community has not yet developed an effective eradication method. Although I hope we can soon understand how to control and eliminate the snake, until that time, the only action we can and must take is preventing its introduction into Hawaii.

I am very pleased that the Committee on Appropriations has recommended an increase, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in achieving the highest funding level to achieve our goals.

PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Patient Protection Act, the Republican plan to provide greater accessibility, affordability, and accountability in our Nation's health care system.

This plan will make a real difference in the lives of America's working women for a lot of reasons. Small businesses in this country are increasingly dominated by women who are looking to make their mark in a growing economy. Unfortunately, right now the cost of health care makes it very tough for them to purchase health care for themselves and their families.

That is why the Republican plan makes the cost of health care for small businesses 100 percent deductible, and it allows small businesses to band together to purchase health care at the same discounted rates that are currently enjoyed by big business.

These sensible reforms, combined with our plans giving a woman's right to choose an OB/GYN as her prime caregiver, are essential to improving access to health care for the many women in this country who are helping to drive this Nation's economy. They stand in stark contrast to the Democrat bill which does nothing to make health care more affordable or accessible to American women.

I urge my colleagues to support the Patient Protection Act when it comes to the floor tomorrow.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, as a cancer survivor, I can tell you that when you are diagnosed with a deadly illness you come face to face with your own mortality. While you are wondering whether you are going to live or you are going to die, you should not have to worry that 2,000 miles away an HMO accountant is making the decisions about what kind of treatment that they are going to provide or what kind of drugs can be provided for your illness. These are the kinds of decisions that ought to be made by doctors and patients, period.